

Five years . . . and it's just the beginning

Located in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District, the Women's Building is a community sponsored multi-ethnic, multi-cultural women's and neighborhood center.

The Building's primary functions — that of helping to establish working coalitions between the women's community and third world organizations, as well as acting as a neighborhood cultural/arts center — makes it a blueprint for social change and community action in our society.



Nita Winter

Gloria Steinem
2nd Annual Reception
Celebrating Women's
Leadership
Women's Building,
November 19, 1983

"There are very few buildings like this. It is a very precious symbol to women in other cities and other countries, and it is the beginning of a world that, one day, we hope, will resemble the values that we have in this room."

As the only large women-owned and operated building of its kind in the United States today, the Women's Building is a symbol of feminist responsibility and action.

The Women's Building is your Building. Won't you join us in supporting her?



Nita Winter

Ntozake Shange, Author
For *Colored Girls Who Have
Considered Suicide When
the Rainbow is Enuf*
Luncheon Honoring
Women's Leadership,
May, 1983

"Rather than a room of one's own or a view of one's own, the Women's Building is a space of one's own, an environment of our making that seeks to meet our needs and desires, as opposed to accommodating our needs and desires, a space that nourishes our fantasies and assuages our fears as opposed to making us fantasies and feeding us fear."



Linda Boyd

Barbara M. Cameron
Activist
Member of the Women's
Building

"The Women's Building needs to be accessible to many different groups if it's to be an educational tool. We can not educate by being exclusive or by being intimidating. It is exciting to know of all the different groups meeting there and we need more."



Irene Young

Ginny Berson
Director of Women's Programming, KPFA Radio
Member of the Women's
Building

"In the long run, feminists must create the life that we're talking about. I get more excited about the Building than I do reading about feminism in a book. We will convince others that a feminist view is valuable by living it and the Women's Building is living it. There are many groups that I would like to give to. I ask myself 'How important is this? What difference will it make in my life if it doesn't exist; and does my support make much difference?' With the Women's Building I know it does."



Nita Winter

Virginia Harris
Writer
Member of the Women's
Building

"We must maintain this institution that we are in control of. I felt good when the mural went up and with the renovation. It shows faith that the Women's Building will continue to be here. I only wish that more women with money and access to money would support it."

The Women's Building — provides:

- unique, on-going educational programs, panel discussions, and cultural arts events such as poetry readings, film showings, dramatic workshops, exercise classes and women's self-defense classes
- low cost, affordable office, performance and meeting space for numerous organizations such as the Women's Foundation, Options for Women Over 40 and Lilitheatre
- childcare facilities, wheelchair access, and convenient public transportation for all building events
- annual community wide events such as the Winter Arts and Crafts Fair, the Women's and Girl's Run in the Park and the Women's Leadership Reception
- sponsorship for a spectrum of worthy projects such as the First West Coast battered women's shelter and the first national conference on violence against women, as well as the following:

San Francisco Women's Switchboard
Action Committee for Abortion Rights
Feminist Institute

Asociacion de Mujeres Salvadorenas
San Francisco Women Against Rape
Alliance Against Women's Oppression

San Francisco Lesbian Chorus
California Women of Color
Against Domestic Violence

Mother Tongue Readers Theater
Open Door Crisis Housing Project
Petition Campaign

Lesbian Contradictions
Project Seeds

Women's Computer Literacy Project
Sybil & Company Theater Group
Onxy (Black lesbian newsletter)
Women's Mural Collection

Vida Gallery
Conexion Latina

The Women's Building
San Francisco Women's Centers
3543 18th Street, San Francisco, California 94110

Her Story

1978-1979: Members of the San Francisco

Women's Center start the search for an ideal space to house women's organizations, performances, meetings, workshops and other activities. They find Dove Hall, a 4-story Mission District building built in 1911 as a German-American athletic club. Through benefits, individual contributions and foundation grants, enough money is raised to make a downpayment on the \$535,000 building which becomes the first women-owned and operated Women's Building in the U.S. It becomes home to Options for Women Over 40, San Francisco Women Against Rape, Lilith Theatre and other groups, as well as a resource center and meeting space for women's and community groups. Over 8,000 pass through her doors each month.

1980-1983: On February 19, 1980, a fire badly

damages the Building including the childcare room and the office of the Third World Women's Alliance. The next day women begin the work of cleaning up and rebuilding. A gallery is added on the fourth floor and a mural depicting the lives of four famous women is painted on the face of the building. Women's and community groups fill all the floors with activity and excitement. The Women's Building moves toward long-range self-sufficiency through an active membership and development program. The city of San Francisco recognizes the value of the Building to the broad based community she serves and makes a major grant for repairs and renovation. Gloria Steinem and Alice Walker speak at a Building reception honoring community women leaders. Sponsored projects grow to include the Association of El Salvadoran Women, the Women's Foundation, Women of All Red Nations, the Bay Area Women's Philharmonic and the Feminist Institute.

1984 and beyond: The Women's Building

begins its 5th year of operation and makes plans for the years to come.

Annual events become part of the community calendar — the Winter Women's Arts and Crafts Fair, the Women's Leadership Reception and the Women's and Girl's Run in the Park. With your help and support, the Women's Building can continue to grow, to pioneer vital new directions and provide a "space of one's own" for all of us.

PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ, MURALIST



Nita Winter

**Why I support
The
Women's
Building
of
the
Bay Area**

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WOMEN'S BUILDING (San Francisco, Calif.) brochure, [1984]

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